ARTICLES
To be inquired of in the
Dioceſſe of S. *ASAPH.*
IN THE FIFT
VISITATION
Of the Reverend Father in God,
IOHN,
Lord Biſhop of S. *Aſaph.* 1642.

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Diocese of S. ASAPH

IN THE

VISITATION

Of the Reverend Father in God,

JOHN

Lord Bishop of S. Asaph. 1672.

ARTICLES

To be enquired of in the *Dioceſe*

OF

Saint *ASAPH.*

ARTICLES concerning publique PRAYER, and adminiſtration of the SACRAMENTS.

FIRST, Whether hath any of your Pariſh ſpoken or declared any thing in the derogation or depraving of the forme of Gods worſhip in the Church of England, and Adminiſtration of the Sacraments, Rites and Ceremonies ſet forth and preſcribed in the Books of Common Prayer? Depraving of the Book of Common Prayer and ceremonies.

2. Item, Whether hath any interrupted, hindred, let, or diſturbed the Miniſter to reade divine ſervice, and to adminiſter the Sacraments in ſuch manner and forme as is mentioned in the ſaid book? or interrupted him in his preaching? Diſturbing the Miniſter in the time of prayer.

Children refused to be Baptized, or dying without Baptisme.

3. Item, Whether is the Sacrament of Baptisme refused to be administred to any children borne in or out of Wedlock, their birth being made knowne to the Minister of the Parish, and offered unto him to be baptized?

Private Baptisme.

4. Item, Whether have there beene any children baptized in private houses by any Lay-person, or Midwife, or Popish Priest, or by any other Minister, but upon urgent occasion, when the child was in danger of death?

Baptizing of Papists children.

5. Item, Whether have the children which have beene borne to any popish Recusants, or begotten by them in your Parish, beene publikely baptized in your parish Church by your Parson, Vicar or Curate, or by whom were they baptized, or where, to your knowledge?

Receiving of the Lords Supper thrice a yeere.

6. Item, Whether hath the blessed Sacrament of the Lords Supper been duly and reverently administred every moneth, or thrice every yeare at least, whereof once at Easter, within your Parish Church, to every parishoner being of sixteene yeeres of age or upwards?

Articles concerning the Church, the ornaments thereof and the Churches possessions.

First, Have you the Bible in the largest volume, the Common prayer booke and the Bookes of Homilies in the Welsh tongue? Have you a Register book in Parchment, and a Table of the degrees prohibited in marriage?

2. Item, Whether have you a Communion cup of silver, with a covering for it, a faire standing pot of silver or pewter for the wine, a faire covering of silke or other decent stuffe for the Communion Table, a faire linnen cloth to be laid over it, at the administration of the Communion?

3. Item, Whether have you in your said Church or Chappell, a convenient seat for your Minister to read divine service in, together with a comely Pulpit, set up in a convenient place, with a decent cloth or cushion for the same, with all other ornaments necessary for the celebration of divine service, & administration of the Sacraments: and whether have you a chest for alms, with three locks and keyes, & another chest for keeping the Books and ornaments of the Church, and the Register book: Whether have you a register book in parchment, for Christnings, Weddings, and Burials: and is the same kept in all points according to the Canons: And is the mothers christian name therein registred as well as the Fathers: Things appertaining to Churches.

4. Item, Whether is your Church or Chappell, with the Chancel thereof, and your Parsonage or Vicarage houses, your Parish Alms house & Church in good reparations, & are they employed to godly & their right holy uses: if any be ruinated & wasted, in whom is the default: Is your Church, Chancel, & Chappel decently and comely kept as well within as without, & be the seats well maintained, the steeple and bels preserved, the windows well glazed, the floore kept paved, plaine and even, and all things in orderly and decent sort: Reparation of Churches and Parsonage houses.

5. Item, Whether be your Church yards well fenced and kept without abuse: if not, whose default is it: hath any person encroached upon the ground of the Church yard: have any used a place conserated to holy use, prophanely or wickedly: have any quarrelled or stricken another in Church or church yard or abused and prophaned them with any unlawfull games, as bowles, Tennis, foot-ball, hand-ball, dancing and such like: Fencing and keeping the Churchyard. Profaning and annoying the Churchyard.

6. Item, Whether is your Church full, or vacant of an Incumbent: if vacant, who receiveth the fruits thereof, and who serveth the Cure, and by what authority: and whether is it a Parsonage, Vicarage, or Donative, or Appropriation: Churches vacant.

Concealing of Church goods.

7. Item, What Legacies hath been given to the use & benefit of your Church: how have they been bestowed: who received them, and retaineth them without due imployment? doth any detaine or imbezel any of the Church goods, or any other gifts given to charitable uses?

Alienation of tithes and profits of the Church

8. Item, Whether be not the profits, tithes, and other commodities ecclesiasticall, impiously and wickedly, to the dishonour of Almighty God, and prejudice of the sacred ministery, converted to the use and benefit of covetous Patrons, and by them received and detained, and how long they have beene so used to your knowledge?

9. Item, Whether have there beene made any bargaine and sale, exchange, or other alienation of the Glebe lands, or tithes of your Parsonage or Vicarage, being presentative; without the consent of the Ordinary & Patron: and if yea, specifie the said lands and tithes so sold, exchanged, or alienated, where it lay and lieth, & how it was and is abutted, together with the value of the same, and who made the same sale, exchange, or alienation, and to whom was it made?

A Terrier of Glebe Lands and other possessions of the Church.

10. Item, Whether have you the Terrier of all the Glebe Lands, Medowes, Gardens, Orchards, Houses, Stocks, Implements, Tenements, portion of tithes, (whether within your Parish or without) belonging unto your Parsonage, or Vicarage, taken by the view of honest men in your said Parish: & whether the said Terrier be laid up in the Bishops Registry, and in whose hands are any of them now: and if you have no Terrier already made in parchment, you the Churchwardens and Sidemen, together with your Parson or Vicar, or in his absence, you are to make diligent inquiry and presentment of the premises, and make, subscribe, and signe the said terrier, as aforesaid.

Articles

Articles concerning Ministers and Preachers of Gods holy Word.

FIrst, whether doth your Minister distinctly, reverently say Divine Service upon Sundaies & Holydayes, and other dayes appointed to be observed by the book of Common Prayer at fit and usuall times? And doth your Minister duly observe the orders, rites and ceremonies prescribed in the said book of common Prayer, as well in reading publique Prayers, and the Letany, as also in administring the Sacraments, solemnization of Matrimony, visitation of the sicke, burying the dead, churching of women, and all other like rites and offices of the Church, in such manner and forme as in the said Book of Common Prayer is enjoyned? Observation of the forme and time of Common Prayer & Sacraments.

2. Item, Doth your Minister endeavour and labour diligently to reclaime the Popish Recusants in his parish from their errors, (if there be any such abiding in your parish) Or whether is your Parson, Vicar or Curate over-conversant with, or a favourer of Recusants, whereby he is suspected not to be sincere in Religion?

3. Item, Doth your Minister, Curate, or Lecturer in his or their Sermons deliver such doctrine as tends to obedience and the edifying of their Auditory in Faith, Religion, and good life, without intermedling with particular matters of State, not fit to be handled in the Pulpit?

4. Item, Whether is your Minister a Preacher licenced or no? if no, whether doth he take upon him in his owne Cure or elsewhere, to expound any Scripture or matter of doctrine? And if he be licensed, doth he preach usually in his owne Cure, or in some other neighbour Church where no Preacher is? Or whether doth he or his Curate upon every Sunday when there is no Sermon, reade a Homily, or some Preachers without Licence.

some part thereof according as he ought to doe?

Preaching of false doctrine and new opinions.

5. Item, Whether doth your Minister publish in his Sermons any doctrine, which is new and strange, and disagreeing from the word of God, and from the Articles of Christian faith and Religion, agreed on and published, Anno Dom. 1562.

6. Item, Whether any victualling, tipling, or ale-selling, have been used in your Parson, Vicar or Curat his house, by themselves, or others dwelling therein, and by whom?

Names of strange Preachers to be taken.

7. Item, Whether are any strange Ministers admitted to preach in your Church, who doe not before the Church-wardens subscribe their names in your book for that purpose, the day when he preached, and the name of the Bishop of whom he had License to preach: and is any one admitted to preach before hee shewed his Licence?

Opposition of Preachers in their Sermons.

8. Item, Doth any Preacher in your Pulpit particularly impugne and confute any doctrine delivered by others his fellow Preachers, before he hath acquainted the Bishop of the Diocesse therewith, and received order from him what to doe in that case?

Praying for His Majesty.

9. Item, Doth your Minister use to pray for the Kings Majesty, Clergy, Counsell, &c. giving them their full titles?

Non-residence of the Minister

10. Item, Whether is your Minister Resident upon his Benefice, or absent; if absent, by whom is the Cure served, the fruits received? Doth your Minister or Curate, serve any more cures than one? if yea, then what other cure doth he serve, and how farre are they distant?

11. Item, Whether doth he Catechize the youth of his Parish, upon sundaies and holy-dayes, before evening Prayer for halfe an hower or more, in the Catechisme set forth in the Book of Common prayer: and whether doe all the Parishioners diligently attend

tend his catechizing: and who refuſe to ſend their chil-dren and ſervants to be catechized by him?

12. Item, Doth your Miniſter carefully looke to the reliefe of the poore, & from time to time call upon his pariſhioners to give ſomewhat according to their abi-lity, to godly and charitable uſes, eſpecially when they make their Wills? Miniſters to call for reliefe of the poore and almeſ-deeds.

13. Item, Whether is your Miniſter ſuſpected or knowne to have obtained his Benefice or ſpirituall promotion by any Symoniacall compact, directly, or indirectly? Symony.

14. Item, Whether doth your Miniſter demiſe the profits of his Benefice to any Lay-man above three yeeres & is not reſident there, & keepeth no hoſpitality upon his Benefice, being of ſufficient value? Demiſing of Benefices.

15. Item, Whether hath he, being learned & ſuffici-ent, conferred with the Popiſh Recuſants of his pariſh, endeavouring to reclaime them from their errors, and preſenting them being obſtinate for their recuſancy? Conferring with Recuſants.

16. Item, hath your Miniſter or any other Preacher, made any Sermon, adminiſtred the Sacraments, or churched women in any private houſes, otherwiſe than is by law allowed? Preaching in private houſes.

17. Item, What Curates or Preachers doe read Prayers or adminiſter the Sacrament in your Pariſh, without lawfull licence? or doth any Lay man, not having holy orders, preſume to read publique Prayers in the Church? Curates not licenced, and Lay-men do-ing the offices of a Miniſter.

18. Item, Whether is your miniſter ſtudious in the holy Scripture, & abſtaineth from mechanicall trads, or labour not befitting his function, & from apparell unſeemely for his calling, and from gaming, ſwearing, and drunkenneſſe, or ſuch notorious crimes: or is there any in your Pariſh, who have bene admitted into ho-ly Orders either Deacon or Miniſter, doth relinquiſh or forſake his calling, and liveth in the courſe of his life as a Layman? Miniſters for-ſaking their calling.

Articles concerning Marriage.

Marriage within Leviticall degree.

FIrſt, Whether be there any in your Pariſh that have married within the degrées of affinity or conſanguinity, by the Law of God forbidden: if any, what bée they?

Private marriage, and without conſent of Parents.

2. Item, Whether have any béen married ſecretly in private houſes, or without their parents or governors conſent ſignified, being under the age of 12. yéeres?

Marryed perſons living apart.

3. Item, Whether do any perſons lawfully married, live aſunder unlawfully: and in whom is the default?

Marriage without banes or licence.

4. Item, Whether any perſons (banes being not thrice publiſhed in the Church) have béene married without licence; who were preſent at ſuch marriages, and what Miniſter married them?

Perſons married out of their pariſhes.

5. Item, Whether any perſons by licence or without have béen married in your Pariſh Church, neither of them at that time dwelling in your Towne?

Recuſants marriage.

6. Item, What Popiſh Recuſants or their children have béene married in your Pariſh, in what ſort was that matrimony ſolemnized, when and by whom?

Articles concerning Church-wardens.

Election of Church-wardens.

FIrſt, Whether be the Church-wardens choſen by the Miniſter and Pariſhoners, and whether hath any taken him to be Church-warden, being not ſo choſen: or hath any continued above one yéere in his office without a new choice?

Church-wardens due accompt.

2. Item, Whether have any Church-wardens detained any of the Church goods, & not made a juſt accompt of what they have received and expended?

Church-wardens diligence in the Church.

3. Item, Have they béen, & are they diligent in their office, to ſée decency kept in the Church, & order in the time of common prayer, and adminiſtration of the Sacraments, and that there be no diſturbance: but ſobernéſſe and quietneſſe in the Church?

Articles

Articles concerning the Parishioners.

FIrst, Whether doe any in your Parish prophane the Sunday by unlawfullgames, drinking or tipling in the time of common Prayer or Sermon, & by working and doing the ordinary workes of their vocation and trades? Profaning the Lords day.

2. Item, Is there any in your Parish that do impugne or speake against the Rites and ceremonies of the Church of England, or the lawfull use of them, & government of this Church under his Majestie by Arch-Bishops, Bishops, and other Ecclesiasticall officers? Impugning the Rites of the Church.

3. Item, Who in your Parish do come to the Sermon only, & not to divine Service, & who do not reverently behave themselves during the time of divine Service, devoutly kneeling when the general confession of sins, the Letany, the ten Commandements, and all Prayers and Collects are read, or who doe give themselves to babling, talking or walking, and are not attentive to heare the Word read and preached? Reverent behaviour at divine service.

4. Item, Are there any of your Parish, having a Preacher to their minister, that do absent themselves from his Sermons, and resort to other places to hear other Preachers: or doe any in your parish communicate, or baptize their children in any other Parish? Leaving their own Churches to goe to others.

5. Item, Whether doe any in your Parish exercise any trade or labour, buy or sell, or keepe open shops, or set out any wares to be sold upon Sundaies and holydayes, by themselves, their servants, or apprentices, or have otherwise prophaned the said daies? Opening of shops upon the Sunday.

6. Item, Whether is the 5. of November kept holy, and thanksgiving made to God, according to the order set forth in that behalfe? Keeping holy the fift of November.

7. Item, Are there any in your Parish that be, or are commonly knowne or reputed to be blasphemers of Gods holy Name, drunkards, adulterers, fornicators, incestuous Adultery, Fornication, Incest, &c.

incestuous persons, concealors or harbourers of sorni-cators or adulterers: have any bene detected of such notorious crimes, & what penance have they done for the same?

8. Item, Whether there be any In-keepers, victua-lers, or Ale-house-keepers within your parish that ad-mit unto or suffer in their houses any person at the time of common Prayer, or Sermon, upon any Sabbath day or holy day, & who they be that hant such Tauerns, Innes, or tipling houses at prayer time?

9. Item, Whether any markets or selling of any meat, or other wares be suffered or used in your Church yard, or neere the same upon the Sabbat h day: and whether any butchers, packmen, pedlers, or any mer-cers or other tradesmen within your parish, open their shops, or make any common or open sale of their stuffe upon Sabbath dayes and holy dayes?

10. Item, What Recusant Papists are there in your Parish, and whether do they or any of them keepe any Schoole-master in their house, which commeth not to Church to heare diuine Service, and receiue the holy Communion: what is his name, and how long hath he taught?

11. Item, Whether hath your Minister or any other of your Parishioners been at any schismaticall conven-ticles in any private house or houses within your Pa-rish, and there have conferred about any private orders for prayers, preaching or expounding the Scriptures contrary to the book of common Prayers and the lawes established in that behalfe? Or whether any lay men have then taken upon them to expound the Scriptures or preach? if so, you shall present them all.

Articles concerning Schoolemastees, Physitians, and Chirurgions, and Parish-clarkes.

FIrst, is there any Schoole-master in your Parish, that teacheth publikly or privately, not licenced by the

the Ordinary? doth he teach any Papiſt or Sectaries children that come not to Church? And doth he inſtruct all his Schollars to learne the ſhort catechiſme by Law eſtabliſhed, contained in the book of common Prayer? Is he a Graduate and ſufficient to teach?

2. Item, What Phyſitian or Chirurgion is in your pariſh unlicenſed, and being not a Doctor of Phiſick in either of the Univerſities, doth practice Phiſick? And what ignorant perſons have left their trade, and taken upon them to profeſſe Phiſick or Chirurgery, & who bee they that ſo abuſe the people? and doe any in your pariſh take upon them to heale and cure men, or cattell, by charmes, ſpels, witchcraft, or any other unlawfull wayes or meanes? Phyſitians not licenſed.

3. Item, Have you a fit pariſh clarke, aged twenty yeeres at leaſt, of honeſt life, able to read & write? are his and the Sextons wages paid without fraud: if not, then whoſe default is it? by whom is he choſen? Is he diligent in his office, & ſerviceable to the Miniſter? doth he meddle with any thing above his office? doth he keepe the Church cleane, the doores locked? Is any thing loſt or ſpoiled by his default, and doth he execute his office duely? Pariſh clark.

Articles concerning Eccleſiaſticall offices.

FIrſt, Whether be there any Eccleſiaſticall Officers that exercise Eccleſiaſticall juriſdiction within this Dioceſſe, that take and receive, or exact any extraordinary fees for any cauſe? whether have your Churchwardens and Queſtmen concealed any abuſes or offences puniſhable in the Eccleſiaſticall Court: & whether ſuch offences being preſented, are ſuppreſſed and unpuniſhed? Exceſſive fees.

2. Item, Whether is there not a table of fees in the Court of the conſiſtory, allowed and ſubſcribed by the Judge and Regiſter of the Court of Conſiſtory, Anno Table of fees in Court.

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Dom. 1597. and the same every Court day hung up in some publike place of the Court and Registry?

Abuses in Apparitors and Sumners.

3. Item, Have any Apparators or Sumners, under pretence of authority, cited or summoned any person unlawfully, or hath taken any reward for the concealing of any offence or sinne, or the avoiding of punishment of the offenders: and who be they that have done so? Or doe they take any fees not accustomable? Have they threatned any to prosecute them if they have no reward? and do they summon any without a citation first had?

If you know any other default or crime, of Ecclesiasticall cognisans, you are to present the same.

The Minister of every Parish may joyne in presentment with the Church-wardens and Side-men; and if they will not present, then the Ministers themselves (being the persons that should have the chiefe care for the suppressing of sin and impietie in their Parishes) may present the crimes aforesaid, and such things as shall be thought to require due Reformation.

FINIS.